**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** An audit of clinical training exposure amongst junior doctors working in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery in 101 hospitals in the United Kingdom.

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 11 Jun 2017

**Reviewer:** Blossom Lin

**Reviewer’s report:**

I can see the authors making great efforts to collaborate many hospitals to explore the issue proposed in this study. Several comments are listed in the following:

1. I am not sure the rationale described by the authors about the problem "Lost Tribe" to research question proposed in this study. Through reading the Background section, it seems that the major problem attributing to the "Lost Tribe" was coming from more training vacancies but limited admission tickets for Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery. If my judgement is right, I just wonder why the authors conduct a study like activity analysis for the trainees and what are the connection about the research design and the research questions? Were two study purposes proposed by the authors in this study sufficient or correctly set to answer the problems "Lost Tribe"?

2. In the method section, I would like to suggest more works should be done further, including: 1) what are the participants? Study population, sampling methods and sample size and so on should be mentioned; 2) the operational definitions for those activities in Table 1 and Table 2, and so called doctor grade should be explicitly described in the texts. Moreover, is there any conflict about the classification for something in Table 1 and Table 2, especially about the "on-call" term; 3) what is the unit of analysis in this study? It would be a clue to judge what statistical technique should be performed in this study; 4) what are non-core surgical trainees standing for? I did not see any descriptions earlier in the texts including recruitment? What are the purposes for the comparison and are these comparisons related to the research questions?

3. Until the authors could clarify the points mentioned above, the results and discussions could be judged further.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**

If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons
CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal